Day 2
Summary of Group Discussions and Recommendations

Structure

- **Definition**
- **Problem**
- **Response strategy**
- **Recommendations (national)**
- **Recommendations (regional/global)**

Definitions/understanding

- **Social protection and services is a system designed to ensure children are protected and to support families to care for their children;**

- **Govt is mandated to oversee care system for children, specifically to:**
  - **Develop a framework consistent with international standards, developed through consultation;**
  - **Provide financial and human resources for implementation;**
  - **Ensure implementation is coordination;**
  - **Regulate implementation; information collecting and monitoring; and**
  - **Include emergency preparedness plans**

Definitions/understandings cont'd

- **Boarding schools - schools which focus on education and also provide residential care; can cater for orphans**
- **FB schools – national or international actors from different religious beliefs that provide a wide and different range of services**
- **Partners – NGO's, INGO's, CBO's, FBO, church, private companies, UN, civil society, media, universities, bilateral and multilateral donors , mass organisations (e.g.: unions), local government and districts, children, youth, parents and families**

Problem statement

- **Problems with current systems**
  - **Approach;**
  - **Gaps in framework; and**
  - **Implementation and regulation of framework (e.g.: What standards (if any) are boarding/FB schools following?)**
- **Lack of collaboration/cross sectoral approach:**
  - **Not strong partnerships between govt, NGO's and FBO**
  - **Not strong collaboration between govt ministries and national and local govt**

Problem statement cont'd

- **Lack of information/understanding:**
  - **a) Community level prevention**
    - **What mechanisms exist at the community level for keeping families together?**
  - **b) Informal care**
    - **How do families and communities understand what care is the best interest of children?**
    - **How are children in informal care looked after by their families, communities?**
  - **c) Other**
    - **How to access boarding/FB schools and to understand what is going on in boarding/FB schools (child protection)?**
- **Collecting information**
  - **Do government and non government organisations understand the importance of information collecting?**
  - **Information record systems are not user friendly**
  - **There is a lack of feedback on utilisation of data gathered**

Recommendations (National)

- **Refocusing systems/interventions towards**
  - **Rights based approach**
  - **Prevention of separation of families and children and supporting families to care for children;**
  - **Cross-sectoral**
- **Government responsibility to:**
  - **Establish framework for care of children;**
  - **Support implementation of framework with human and financial resources; and**
  - **Develop strategies and replicate good practices.**
- **Improved understanding and improved information collecting:**
  - **Include children in formal residential care in census**
  - **Linking information with poverty alleviation indicators and MDG's**
- **Promote best practices/models and minimum standards of care, e.g.: using boarding schools that are open as models**

Recommendations (regional/global)

- **Need for clear definitions**
- **Regional assessment and development of UNICEF policy on boarding/FB schools (in depth research)**
- **Technical assistance - share best practice, including minimum standards, monitoring tools, indicators, guidelines, strategies for advocacy (e.g.: with FBO)**
    - **Development of website (Better Care Network)**
- **Capacity building – development of regional curriculum on social work**
- **Engage with partners and conduct advocacy campaigns**
    - **Religious forums - use holistic understanding of children's rights in CRC to advocate with FB organisations**
    - **Regional media campaign on the importance of keeping families together**